

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 AID-05 DPW-01

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O R 031221Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4690

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: SENATE DEBATE ON STATE OF NATION

REF: SAIGON 4094

1. EXTRAORDINARY PLENARY SESSION OF SENATE WAS CONVENED ON APRIL 2 BY SENATE CHAIRMAN TRAN VAN LAM. SENATORS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET ASIDE OTHER BUSINESS TO CONSIDER STATE OF NATION. TWENTY SENATORS ADDRESSED SUBJECT IN FORTHRIGHT MANNER ARGUING NATION FACES CRITICAL SITUATION OF HISTORIC PROPORTIONS BROUGHT ABOUT BY MASSIVE NVN MILITARY ATTACKS AGAINST RVN IN BLATANT AND SYSTRMATIC VIOLATION OF PARIS AGREEMENT. ALMOST ALL SENATORS REVIEWED MILITARY SITUATION AND RECENT TERRITORIAL LOSSES AND CHARGED THAT US WAS RENEGING ON PROMISE TO ASSIST RVN. ONE SENATOR, HOANG XUAN HAO, DEVOTED ENTIRE SPEECH TO THIS THEME. MANY SPEECHES WERE CRITICAL OF GVN WHICH GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS INCAPABLE OF DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH CURRENT CRISIS AND UNABLE WIN CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF SOLDIERS AND PEOPLE. WITH EXCEPTION OF FOUR OPPOSITION SENATORS, ALL STOPPED SHORT OF CALLING FOR RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT  
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THIEU.

2. ON MOTION OF SENATOR TRUONG TIEN DAT, SENATE VOTED FOR CLOSED SESSION DEBATE OF DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH CRITICIZED GVN FOR SEEKING PURELY MILITARY SOLUTION AND FOR NOT MARSHALLING SUPPORT OF PEOPLE. IT CALLED FOR "NEW MODE OF LEADERSHIP" AND URGENTLY ESTABLISHING "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION" THAT WOULD INCLUDE THOSE ELEMENTS THAT HAVE "ABILITY, GOOD WILL AND GOOD REPUTATIONS."

3. FOLLOWING 3 HOUR CLOSED SESSION, FINAL RESOLUTION (REFTEL) WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY 41 SENATORS IN ATTENDANCE. MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FROM FINAL DRAFT WAS IN ITEM #2 SECOND SECTION WHICH ORIGINALLY READ "THERE MUST BE A NEW DIRECTION TO SETTLE THE WAR AND A NEW MODE OF LEADERSHIP ..." AND WAS CHANGED TO "URGENTLY NEED A DIRECTION FOR SETTLING THE WAR AND NEW LEADERSHIP ..." (THIS IS VARIATION FROM TEXT TRANSMITTED REFTTEL WHICH CALLED FOR "CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP".) ONLY OTHER MAJOR CHANGE WAS ADDITION OF APPEAL FOR US SUPPORT TO STOP COMMUNIST ATTACKS.

4. SOME VIETNAMESE CONTACTS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY READ FINAL RESOLUTION AS VIETNAMESE WAY OF CALLING FOR RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT THIEU. MODERATE OPPOSITIONISTS AND PRO-GOVERNMENT SENATORS ARE LIKELY TO POINT TO PARA 3 SECOND SECTION WHICH CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION AS EVIDENCE THAT THAT IS DIRECTION IN WHICH SENATE WOULD LIKE TO MOVE. SUCH A GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO MODERATE OPPOSITION, WOULD RETAIN PRESIDENT THIEU AS FIGUREHEAD BUT SET UP COUNCIL ARRANGEMENT FOR MAKING AND IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL POLICY. IN ANY CASE, SEEMS LIKELY TO US THAT FINAL AMBIGUOUS WORDING ON THIS ITEM ACTUALLY RESULT OF COMPROMISE HAMMERED OUT IN CLOSED DOOR SESSION. THUS, WHILE CALL FOR NEW LEADERSHIP CLEARLY APPEARS GO BEYOND REPLACEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER, REAL MEANING OF RESOLUTION WILL NO DOUBT BECOME SUBJECT OF DEBATE AND WE ANTICIPATE EACH GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL WILL READ IT DIFFERENTLY.  
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## Message Attributes

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